

S/N NEW FILING

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	DANT	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	NEW FILING	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	HEREWITH	Docket No.:	6683.70USU1
Title:	APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SPINAL DISTRACTION USING A FLIP-UP PORTAL		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:
"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV322886713US
Date of Deposit: September K, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: Teresa Anderson
Name: Teresa Anderson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: April. 12, 2003


Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:PSTkaw

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Docket Number: 6683.70USU1	Application Number: NEW FILING
			Applicant: DANT	
			Filing Date: HEREWITH	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,484,437	01/16/1996	Michelson			
	5,505,732	04/09/1996	Michelson			
	5,741,253	04/21/1998	Michelson			
	5,772,661	06/30/1998	Michelson			
	5,797,909	08/25/1998	Michelson			
	6,224,599 B1	05/01/2001	Baynham et al.			
	6,270,498 B1	08/07/2001	Michelson			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						



EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	